GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AYURVEDA,YOGA & NATUROPATHY,UNANI,SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH)
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5639
ANSWERED ON:07.04.2017
Traditional Knowledge Digital Library
Tumane Shri Krupal Balaji

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA,YOGA & NATUROPATHY,UNANI,SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Traditional Knowledge Digital Library in order to protect ancient Indian traditional medicinal system and legacy of the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the present status of the implementation;

(c) the total cost of the project and expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) the other impacts and benefits under the said projects; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to protect the country's ancient and traditional knowledge from biopiracy?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA,
YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY
(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)
(a) & (b): The Ministry of AYUSH had already established Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) in collaboration with Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR). As per the information provided by the CSIR, TKDL consisting of more than 3.30 lakh medicinal formulations of Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Yoga which are available in the public domain, in five international languages namely English, Japanese, French, German and Spanish. To facilitate the protection of country's traditional knowledge, access of TKDL has been provided to International Patent offices (IPOs) under International Agreement. In addition, pre-grant opposition on patent applications along with prior art evidences from TKDL are submitted on a regular basis.
(c): As per the information provided by the CSIR, the implementing agency of the TKDL project, the expenditure incurred on the project is about Rs. 16.18 Crores during the financial year 2012-2017.
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(d): As per the information received from CSIR, till date TKDL has been successful in preventing the grant of wrong patents in 219 cases. For further facilitating the prevention of grant of wrong patents at International Patent Offices (IPOs), International Access Agreements on TKDL have been concluded with United States Patent & Trademark Office, European Patent Office, Canada Patent Office, Germany Patent Office, Japan Patent Office, United Kingdom Patent Office, Australia Patent Office, Malaysia Patent Office, Chile Patent Office and Indian Patent Office.
(e): Indian Patent Office had also brought out Guidelines for processing Patent Applications relating to Traditional Knowledge and Biological Material to help Patent examiner to analyze what constitute novelty and inventive step in Traditional Knowledge (TK) related invention. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 also aims at conservation of biological resources, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources. Further, the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 requires every local body to constitute a Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) within its area with the objective to prepare People's Biodiversity Register in consultation with local people. The Register shall contain comprehensive information on availability and knowledge of local biological resources, their medicinal or any other use or any other traditional knowledge associated with them.

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